IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Page 4, starting with line 17, please replace the following paragraphs as follows:

Figure 4 is a flowchart showing the operation of the Figure 1 embodiment;

Figure 5 is a flowchart showing the operation of another embodiment of the invention;

Figure 6 is a flowchart showing the operation of still another embodiment of the invention;

Figure 7 is a flowchart showing the operation of yet another embodiment of the invention;

Figure 8 is a flowchart showing the operation of another embodiment of the invention;

Figure 9 is a flowchart showing the operation of still another embodiment of the invention;

Figure 10 is a flowchart showing the operation of yet another embodiment of the invention;

Figure 11 is a flowchart showing the operation of another embodiment of the invention; and

Figure 12 is a flowchart showing the operation of still another embodiment of the invention.

Page 6, starting with line 14, through page 7, please replace the following paragraphs as follows:

The compressed YUV signals stored in the buffer memory 22 are read out by a disk control circuit 24 and recorded to an magneto-optical disk 30 according to an MS-DOS format by an

optical pickup 26 and magnetic head 28. Specifically, the disk control circuit 24 first detects a vacant area out of the magneto-optical disk 28 and then moves the optical pickup 26 and magnetic head 28 toward the detected vacant area. Subsequently, the compressed YUV signal is read out of the buffer memory 22, and a semiconductor laser 26a provided on the optical pickup 26 is caused to output laser light. A record current corresponding to the read-out compressed YUV signal is flowed to the magnetic head 28. Due to this, compressed YUV signals are recorded to the vacant areas. Where there are remaining compressed YUV signals in the buffer memory even after the vacant areas become full, the disk control circuit 24 again detects a vacant area and moves the optical pickup 26 and magnetic head 28 to the detected vacant area. Then, the remaining compressed YUV signals are read out of the buffer memory 22 and the compressed UV signals are recorded to the vacant area by the semiconductor laser 26 and magnetic head 28.

As a result, even where vacant areas are sporadically distributed, compressed YUV signals are properly recorded to each vacant area.

Page 9, starting with line 11, please replace the following paragraph as follows:

In this manner, where there exists compressed YUV signals to be recorded, recording to the same vacant area is continued until a full state is reached. When the vacant area is full and another vacant area exists, a vacant-area list is again created to thereby detect again a vacant area satisfying a predetermined condition. The remaining compressed YUV signals are recorded by a predetermined quantity at one time to the detected vacant area.

Page 10, starting with line 10, please replace the following paragraph as follows:

In a digital camera 10 of still another embodiment, the disk control circuit 24 processes a flowchart shown in Figure 6. This flowchart is also similar to the flowchart of Figure 4 except for steps S35 and S37. That is, steps S31 and S33 are the same as the steps S1 and S3, and steps S39 to S45 are the same as the steps S9 to S15. Hence, duplicated explanations will be omitted as much as possible.

Page 11, starting with line 3, please replace the following paragraph as follows:

Furthermore, in a digital camera 10 of yet another embodiment, the disk control circuit 24 processes a flowchart shown in Figure 7. This flowchart is the same as the flowchart of Figure 6 except that a vacant area in the outermost periphery is detected in step S57. That is, steps S51 to S55 are the same as the steps S31 to S35, while steps S59 to S65 are the same as the steps S39 to S45. Hence, duplicated explanations will be omitted. In also this embodiment, where a motion-image record mode is selected, jump is always in one direction of from an outer periphery toward an inner periphery although the frequency of jump is not lessened. That is, compressed YUV signals are recorded to the vacant areas in the order as ⑦→⑥→⑤→④→③→②→①. Accordingly, the effective record rate is faster than that of the conventional art.

In a digital camera 10 of another embodiment, the disk control circuit 24 processes a flowchart shown in Figure 8. It should be noted that steps S71 to S77 are the same as the steps S1 to S7 of Figure 4 and the steps S83 to S89 are the same as the steps S9 to S15 of the same Figure 4. Hence, duplicated explanations will be omitted.

Page 11, starting with line 25 through page 12, please replace the following paragraphs as follows:

If recording of motion images is started in the vacant-area distribution state shown in Figure 2, compressed YUV signals are recorded to the vacant areas ⑤ and ② in this order. When the vacant area ② becomes full, recording is impossible to perform. After the vacant areas ⑤ and ② become full, the vacant areas ①, ③, ④, ⑥ and ⑦ of less than 4M bytes are left and accordingly still images are recorded to these vacant areas.

In a digital camera 10 of still another embodiment, the disk control circuit 24 processes a flowchart shown in Figure 9. It should be noted that this flowchart is the same as the flowchart of Figure 8 except for step S95. That is, steps S91 and S93 are the same as the steps S71 and S73, and steps S97 to S109 are the same as the steps S77 to S89.

In step S95, a maximum vacant area is detected from among the vacant areas of less than 4M bytes. As described above, the vacant areas of less than 4M bytes are secured for recording still images, to which areas no motion images will be recorded. If still images are recorded to these vacant areas exclusive for recording still images in the order of greater in size, the effective record rate is increased even in the still-image record mode. Also, because the vacant areas of greater than 4M bytes are secured for recording motion images, motion images can be recorded to the vacant area ② and ⑤ even after the vacant areas ①, ③, ④, ⑥ and ⑦ become full of still images.

In a digital camera 10 of yet another embodiment, the disk control apparatus 24 processes a flowchart shown in Figure 10. It should be noted that steps S111 and S113 are the same as the steps S91 and S93 of Figure 9, steps S121 to S125 are the same as the steps S97 to S101 of

Figure 9, and steps S127 to S133 are the same as the steps S103 to S109 of Figure 8. Hence, duplicated explanations will be omitted.

Page 13, starting with line 13, please replace the following paragraphs as follows:

In a digital camera 10 of another embodiment, the disk control circuit 24 processes a flowchart shown in Figure 11. It should be noted that steps S141 and S143 are the same as the steps S71 and S73 of Figure 8 and steps S147 to S159 are the same as the steps S77 to S89 of Figure 8. Hence, duplicated explanations will be omitted.

Where vacant areas in the number of M are formed, in step S145 a vacant area that is Nth ($1 < N < M$) greater in size is detected. This process is similar to the step S25 of Figure 5. Accordingly, if $N = 5$ for example, a vacant area ③ is detected. This increases the effective record rate in the still-image record mode.

In a digital camera 10 of still another embodiment, the disk control apparatus 24 processes a flowchart of Figure 12. It should be noted that steps S161 and S163 are the same as the steps S71 and S73 of Figure 8, steps S171 to S175 are the same as the steps S77 to S81 of Figure 8, and steps S177 to S183 are the same as the steps S83 to S89 of Figure 8. Hence, duplicated explanations will be omitted.

Page 14, starting with line 22 through page 15, please replace the following paragraph as follows:

Furthermore, although in the embodiments of Figure 8 to Figure 12 provided as a condition for recording motion images is the condition that the maximum vacant area in size exceeds 4M bytes (steps S79, S99, S123, S149, S173), it is needless to say that this value is not limited to 4M bytes. It is however noted that there is a need of agreement between this value and the value used in the step S95 of the Figure 9 embodiment and steps S115 and S119 of the Figure 10 embodiment.